



**ENGINEERING OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 12, 1998, 9:00 A.M.  
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**

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Present: C. T. Maki G. D. Taylor J. D. Culp  
C. Roberts P. F. Miller J. D. O'Doherty  
T. E. Davies J. W. Reincke T. Fort  
M. H. Frankhouse S. Bower

Guest: B. Zimmerman J. Ruskowski J. Steele (FHWA)

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Approval of the Minutes of the January 8, 1998, Meeting - C. T. Maki**

Minutes of the January 8, 1998, meeting were approved as written.

**2. Raised Pavement Marker (RPM) Update - J. D. O'Doherty/B. Zimmerman**

Brian Zimmerman provided an excellent update on RPM performance based on his recent field study. The results continue to indicate critical problems (failures) with Stimsonite Models 98 (tall castings) and 96LP (wide castings). Their newer model (101LP) is performing extremely well with less than a 2 percent failure rate compared to an almost 50 percent failure rate with the two older models over the same study time - July 1997 to the present.

**DECISION:** The worst installations need to be removed first. There will be no lens replacements in 1998 and beyond, except for those under contracts let in late 1997. The Traffic and Safety Division will work with the Regions to develop a plan to target and remove the Model 98 and 96LP castings, including a plan to remove castings that can no longer host a lens. Working with the Regions, Traffic and Safety will also determine the replacement program and its priorities.

Currently, Model 101LP RPMs are being installed on new construction following the old policy that allows them on freeway type roadways only and on a few non-freeway locations if they are pre-approved by the Traffic and Safety Division.

The Traffic and Safety Division will draft a new policy and guidelines for the application and use of Model 101LP RPMs.

**NOTE:** The new policy, if it involves non-freeway installations, would not be fully implemented until the present freeway installations have been repaired/replaced.

**ACTION:** The Traffic and Safety Division will take the lead in preparing replacement plans and priorities in conjunction with the Regions. They will also draft the new policy and associated guidelines for new RPM installations. The draft policy will be presented for review and comment at the April EOC meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Research Report, *The Safety Effects of Signalizing Intersections* - J. D. O'Doherty**

The study evaluated the safety effects of signalizing previously unsignalized intersections. Data were collected on the physical characteristics of 350 intersections, as well as accident records before and after the signals were installed.

Results confirmed previous studies and experience: 1) while crash frequencies generally increased, there was variation by type of intersection and geographic location; 2) there was a clear shift from angle to rear-end crashes; and 3) there was some shift toward less severe crashes. Other trends were noted, but were not considered very reliable trends. The report provides useful backup data for future meetings and for public discussions.

**ACTION:** The research report is approved and will be distributed appropriately.

2. **Projects Developed Without Consideration of Intelligent Transportation System Infrastructure (ITS) - J. D. O'Doherty**

A meeting with Director DeSana was held on March 11 and he is interested in an ITS statewide strategic plan. The item was tabled until the April EOC meeting.

3. **Special Provision Format and Approval Process - J. D. Culp/J. Ruskowski**

Five years ago EOC approved the current policy on special provisions. An updated procedure has been written that brings the specifications engineer into the special provisions loop to monitor changes to standard specifications and to minimize conflicts between contract documents.

**APPROVE:** Approve the updated special provision procedure for immediate release and implementation.

(Signed Copy on File at C&T/Secondary)  
Jon W. Reincke, Secretary  
Engineering Operations Committee

JWR:kat

cc: EOC Members  
Region Engineers

J. R. DeSana	R. J. Risser, Jr. (MCPA)	T. Adams (MCA)	B. Richter
R. J. Lippert, Jr.	A. C. Milo (MRBA)	J. Ruskowski	R. D. Till
D. L. Smiley	J. Becsey (MAPA)	C. Libiran	M. Frierson
M. Nystrom (AUC)	G. L. Mitchell	G. J. Bukoski	C. W. Whiteside
M. Newman (MAA)	J. Steele (FHWA)	K. Rothwell	M. S. Watson